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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /034 W
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R 121145Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1374
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, AF
SUBJ: NEW EDUCATIONAL REFORM PROGRAM AND MAJOR SHAKE-UP
OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

REF: AID MEMCON DATED OCTOBER 29, 1974

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION: FIRST DEPMIN DR MOHD SEDDIQ AND PRESIDENT OF COMPILATION AND TRANSLATION (I.E., PUBLICATIONS) DR EHSAN ENTEZAR HAVE BEEN RELIEVED THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES,

AND MORE DISMISSALS ARE EXPECTED AT THE "PRESIDENTIAL" LEVEL WITHIN THE MINISTRY. CHANGES APPEAR TO STEM FROM ED. MINISTER KAYUM'S DISSATISFACTION WITH BUREAUCRACY'S RESPONSE TO NEW EDUCATIONAL REFORM, PRODUCT OF THE ECONOMIC BOARD OF THE HIGH ECONOMIC COUNCIL. DR MIR FATAH SEDDIQ WHO HEADED ECONOMIC BOARD AND IS FATHER OF REFORM PLAN HAS BEEN APPOINTED FIRST DEPMIN. CHANGES REFLECT FULL PRESIDENTIAL BACKING FOR NEW REFORM, EMERGENCE OF HIGH ECONOMIC COUNCIL AS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH, AND INDICATE QUICKENING SENSE OF NEED "TO GET THINGS MOVING".

2. MAJOR PERSONNEL CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. FIRST DEPMIN DR MOHD SEDDIQ

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AND PRESIDENT OF COMPILATION AND TRANSLATION (IE. PUBLI-
CATIONS) DR EHSAN ENTEZAR WERE INFORMED ON FEBRUARY 9 THAT
THEIR SERVICES WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED. KABUL RADIO
ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 11 THAT DR MIR ABDUL FATAH SEDDIQ HAS BEEN
APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER. MORE DISMISSALS CONSIDERED
IMMINENT.

3. DISMISSALS APPEAR TO STEM FROM SUPPOSED RESISTANCE AND
"FOOT DRAGGING" WITHIN THE MIN OF ED. TO MAJOR EDUCATIONAL

REFORM PROGRAM CONCEIVED OUTSIDE THE MINISTRY BY THE ECONO-
MIC BOARD OF THE HIGH ECONOMIC COUNCIL. (DESCRIPTION AND
ANALYSIS OF REFORM BY AIDAC SEPTEL). INFORMED SOURCES STATE
THAT FORMER MIN EDUCATION PAHZWAK WAS OUTSPOKEN WITHIN
MINISTRY IN HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN
AFFAIRS OF MINISTRY, DIFFICULTY OF IMPLEMENTING REFORMS
WITHIN THE TIME FRAME GIVEN, ETC. ONE FACTOR IN HIS DIS-
MISSAL MAY WELL HAVE BEEN THIS RESISTANCE. NEW EDUCATION
MINISTER ABDUL KAYUM, NOT HAPPY WITH THE COOPERATION AND
COORDINATION WITHIN THE MINISTRY, DECIDED TO INSTITUTE MAJOR
CHANGES AT THE DEPMIN AND PRESIDENTIAL LEVELS.

4. ELEMENT NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED IN THE CHANGE OF DEPMIN
IS PERSONAL RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDDIQS. DR MIR
FATAH SEDIQ (PHD IN EDUCATION AND PLANNING, INDIANA UNIVERSITY)
RESIGNED PRESIDENCY OF THE MINISTRY'S PLANNING DEPARTMENT
WHEN DR MOHD SEDDIQ BECAME FIRST DEPMIN , BELIVING THAT
POSITION SHOULD HAVE BEEN HIS. WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT UNTIL
TAPPED FOR PRESIDENCY OF ECONOMIC BOARD OF HIGH ECONMIC
COUNCIL, PLANNED EDUCATIONATJREFORM APPEARS TO BE LARGELY
HIS BRAINCHILD. HIS APPOINTMENT AS FIRST DEPMIN IS CLEAR
MANDATE TO IMPLEMENT THAT REFORM.

5. COMMENT: THERE APPEARS TO BE NO POLITICAL MOTIVATION,
IN THE NARROW SENSE, BEHIND THE PERSONNEL CHANGES WITHIN
MIN ED. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT HIGH ECONOMIC COUNCIL,
WHICH UNTIL THIS POINT HAD NOT APPEARED OF MORE THAN
POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE, HAS THE FULL BACKING OF PRESIDENT
DAOUD...AT LEAST ON THE ISSUE OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM.
GENESIS OF MMW EDUCATIONAL REFORMS BEARS OUT IMPLICATION
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OF DR MIR FATAH SEDDIQ'S REMARKS TO MISSION OFFICERS
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO (REF MEMCON) THAT HIGH ECONOMIC COUNCIL
IS NOT LIMITED TO STUDIES OR PROPOSALS GENERATED BY THE
MINISTRIES THEMSELVES, NOR, AS IT REPORTS DIRECTLY TO DEP
PRIME MINISTER SHARQ, MUST ITS PROPOSALS BE CLEARED BY
MINISTRIES SHORT OF BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS ITSELF. AS THE SECOND NAWROZ (NEW YEAR) OF THE
DAOUD REGIME DRAWS NEAR, THERE SEEMS A GREATER WILLINGNESS

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TO SHAPE POLICY THROUGH NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE BUREAUCRACY. CHANGES HERETOFORE HAD BEEN MOSTLY IN NEGATIVE SENSE OF MERELY RIDDING SYSTEM OF PERSONS OF PROVEN INCOMPETENCE OR THOSE WHOSE LOYALTY MAY HAVE BEEN SUSPECT.
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